

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS,  
H.E MRS JANE WAETARA FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE COMMISSION  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

UN Headquarters, New York

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**Madam Chair,**

- My delegation congratulates you in your role as chair, and commend the way you have conducted the session thus far. We assure you of our delegation's support for the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development.
- For 30 years the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), has been an invaluable framework to guide Member States' efforts, to enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development.
- While there has been some measurable progress, the implementation of the Programme of Action is varied across the globe. The confluence of conflicts, crisis and impact of climate change has slowed progress and pushed many off track.

**Madam Chair,**

- As we meet this week to reflect on the ICPD journey, we are confronted with a different world to the one 30 years ago. A world of increasing multidimensional crisis and vulnerabilities intersecting population and development. The world's population has increased by 2.5 billion in the last 30 years and is expected to continue to increase.
- Environmental factors exacerbate pressures on national governments/systems, particularly for smaller economies and vulnerable communities to stay on track with their human development aspirations and needs.

- The Commemoration of the ICPD provides us the opportunity, to renew our commitment made 30 years ago - and recommit our focus on the rights-based approach to population and human development.

**Madam Chair,**

- For small islands developing states, (including my own), the challenges to fully implement both the Programme of Action and SDGs are many and complex.
- Climate change and its impacts is a multiplier effect, undermining our economic prosperity, the survival and viability of our population, natural ecosystems, and overall sustainable development.
- But, we will not be defined by these challenges, nor allow them to deter us from our ambitions, to bring about better changes to the livelihood of our people.
- Our Pacific Islands Forum Leaders recognized this when they adopted the 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific, that strongly commits to the health, wellbeing of the people, human rights, and equity. It also places great value on our ocean and land, reflecting the deep connection to our communities, natural environment, resources, livelihoods, faith, cultural values and traditional knowledge.

**Madam Chair,**

- Solomon Islands recognized the commitment and attention to implementation of the ICDP program of action. This includes providing the right policy environment with creation of relevant legislations across relevant sectors.
- Mobilizing of efforts across the Government, with the support of our development and non-government partners, has yielded many positive gains in Solomon Islands during the past 30 years.
- On health including reproductive health rights, Solomon Islands is committed to ensure all Solomon Islanders have equal access to quality health care and education.

- With a growing young population, Solomon Islands remains committed to ensuring access for adolescents and youths, including those with disabilities, to appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive, quality and timely services.
- Mortality rate among women and girls and Child Mortality have significantly reduced due to improvements in access to antenatal care and family planning health services.
- Our national literacy rates have improved and this is attributed to increased rates in primary school enrolment.
- Great progress has been made and we will remain to the course to bring to zero, by addressing unmet need for family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives.,

**Madam Chair,**

- On addressing gender-based violence, key legislations such as the Family Protection Act and Child and Family Welfare Act, provided the framework for mechanisms, such as the SAFENET referral system for women and girls experiencing violence, and ensure quality services for survivors in all provinces, including for those with disabilities.
- In addition, the National Strategy on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls complemented by the National Financial Inclusion Strategy have improved economic empowerment for women particularly in our rural and remote areas through various Financial Inclusion Programs.
- Similarly, the government of Solomon Islands is also committed to address the progress in employment creation to alleviate poverty and the increasing rural-urban migration, largely attributed to lack of centralized development services, increasing morbidity due to the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, early exit from school and lack of data and statics to support planning, budgeting and decision making.

**Madam Chair,**

- As highlighted in the Secretary General's report, we are not near full attainment of the ICPD Program of action. Much more remains to be done.
- To that end, we continue to call on the development partners, to mobilize support and assistance, to enable countries achieve universal health coverage – including comprehensive reproductive health services, increase access to education opportunities and comprehensive social welfare systems.
- As we look towards the future, the global community must continue to prioritize human development and population, by incorporating the core objective of the Program of Action in other processes on Sustainable development within the United Nations, including the Summit of the Future.
- We must ensure that the multilateral system is responsive and be a platform to improve the lives and wellbeing of our people – and to leave no one behind.

I thank you.